

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUSIE STARK

Susan Stark, Ph.D., OTR/L has long been active in the ICF scene and has successfully ducked being in the spotlight for too long. With stalking and harassment, we pried enough information out of her to highlight a few of her many ICF activities. Susie is a "CIRRIE faculty member", which means that she is a formal part of John Stones NIDRR grant to conduct ICF tutorials. She has worked for several years on developing ICF training materials for clinicians with Geoff Reed and Lynn Bufka (both of whom have been in the ICF Clearinghouse "Spotlight". Dr. Stark is currently conducting a study of the effectiveness of two different training methods (among OT graduate students); the methods are self-directed computer course and live instructional course. In Spring 2007, she and Geoff and Lynn provided a six-hour ICF tutorial at the American Occupational Therapy Association meeting held in St. Louis. Dr. Stark received her B.S. in Exercise and Health Science from Alma College, Alma Michigan. She went on to receive her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Washington University Medical School, Program in Occupational Therapy in St. Louis in 1989. After practicing OT in hospital and community practice areas, she returned to teach at Washington University. She completed her Ph.D. in Environmental and Behavior Science at the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1998. Dr. Stark is the principal investigator in the Environment and Occupational Performance Laboratory at Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Occupational Therapy where she conducts studies of the outcome of environmental modification interventions on the lives of older adults and persons with disabilities. She currently conducts research on the impact of environmental barriers on the social participation of individuals who have disabilities and teaches courses on environmental modification. Dr. Stark is also one of the co-investigators for the Centers for Disease Control project, "Development of a Community Health Environment Checklist" and was a co-investigator on the "Mobility, Disability, Participation and the Environment" study which resulted in the development of self-report measures of participation and environmental factors (PARTS/M, FABS/M) that influence participation. (That means that she worked with Dave Gray to develop a series of assessments to measure the environment and participation). Dr. Stark currently serves as the representative from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to the World Health Organization for the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. In this role, she led the field trials of the 1999 beta-2 version of this classification system for American Occupational Therapy Association and was a member of the International Mental Health Task Force. She has also contributed information and knowledge to AOTA's practice directorate, which has resulted in the inclusion of the ICIDH-2 and the ICF in important practice guidelines. Dr. Stark is currently a member of the eight person team led by the American Psychological Association and WHO to write the prototype of the *Procedural Manual and Guide for a Standardized Application of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF)*. On a personal note, she has a toddler daughter named Sophie and a husband named Paul. Her new puppy Harry and her daughter Sophie still need potty training. Her hobbies are yoga, jogging, and photography. She lives in St. Louis and

teaches at Washington University, and her contact information is: Susan Stark, Ph.D., OTR/L, Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Occupational Therapy, Box 8505, 4444 Forest Park Blvd., St. Louis MO 63108, 314.286.1626, fax: 314.286.1601, email: [starksu@msnotes.wustl.edu](mailto:starksu@msnotes.wustl.edu).